

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DLRANARD:LM

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

H:KBJENKINS (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165648

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: FRASER-NIX HEARINGS

1. WIRELESS FILE WILL BE CARRYING FULL TEXT HUMMEL STATEMENT BEFORE FRASER-NIX COMMITTEES JULY 30, AS WELL AS SUMMARY OF Q'S AND A'S PUT TO HUMMEL AND ABRAMOWITZ, LATTER OF WHOM TESTIFIED FOR DOD.

2. HEARING WAS HELD IN COMPLETELY FILLED LARGE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ROOM BEFORE AUDIENCE COMPOSED HEAVILY OF ANTI-PARK OVERSEAS KOREANS, AMERICAN AND KOREAN CHRISTIAN GROUPS, U.S. AND KOREAN PRESS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF KOREAN EMBASSY. U.S. CONGRESSMEN PRESENT FROM BOTH SIDES OF HOUSE INCLUDED ROSENTHAL, WOLFF, NIX, FRASER, GROSS, DERWINSKI AND BROOMFIELD.

3. FRASER OPENED HEARING WITH PREPARED STATEMENT IN WHICH HE MADE CLAIM THAT, BECAUSE ROKG IS INCREASINGLY OPPRESSIVE AND PAYS LITTLE HEED TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS OF KOREAN PEOPLE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE REDUCED OR ELIMINATED. IF ROK RETURNS TO DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS WOULD RESTORE

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SUCH ASSISTANCE. HIS OPENING REMARKS PRECIPITATED A MINOR

DEBATE, LED BY BROOMFIELD, CITING NEED FOR BALANCED HEARING AND DESIRE TO HAVE ROK EMBASSY STATEMENT ON "THE CURRENT KOREAN SITUATION" PUT ON THE RECORD. COMMITTEE AGREED.

4. QUESTIONS DEALT WITH THREAT; DMZ INCIDENTS; INTERNAL DISSENSION; STATUS OF COURTS AND PRISONERS, INCLUDING KIM TAE CHUNG; REPRESENTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY EMBASSY; AND ROLE U.S. COULD PLAY IN ALLEVIATING SITUATION. QUESTIONING WAS FAIR AND BALANCED, AND IN GENERAL SIGNIFIED LARGE AWARENESS ON PART OF COMMITTEE OF PROBLEMS ROKG FACES FROM HOSTILE NORTH, AND DIFFICULTY IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEVELOPING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. COMMITTEE APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THAT, WHILE ROK ALSO FACES SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS, STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH CERTAINLY FAR WORSE AND, IN ANY CASE, BASIC OBJECTIVES OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SOUND.

5. COMMITTEE STAFF, ALSO REFLECTING VIEWS OF THEIR PRINCIPALS, HAVE COMMENDED DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT AS FORTHCOMING AND HAVING SERVED TO DISARM COMMITTEE QUESTIONS. ROK DCM PAK KUN CONGRATULATED HUMMEL FOR STATEMENT AND RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, AND BUTLER, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARED ON BEHALF OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ALSO STATED HE BELIEVED DEPARTMENT HAD MADE A FAIR PRESENTATION.

6. FOLLOWING HUMMEL AND ABRAMOWITZ PRESENTATIONS, THEY BOTH LEFT THE HEARING AND HEARING THEN TURNED TO REISCHAUER AND BUTLER. REPORT WILL FOLLOW ON THEIR PRESENTATIONS.

7. WE NOW UNDERSTAND COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN ON AUGUST 5 TO HEAR PRIVATE WITNESSES, INCLUDING HENDERSON, CATHOLIC PRIESTS MOFFETT AND MCFADDEN (AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM FRIENDLY TO ROKG), AND PROTESTANT CHURCH MISSIONARIES. KISSINGER

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